

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KNABE AND RIDLEY-THOMAS

June 12, 2012

The Los Angeles County Office of Education has been the primary Head Start grantee in Los Angeles County for 30 years, helping thousands of children overcome barriers to academic achievement. And the results have been truly outstanding. The LACOE-administered program is one of the largest in the nation, serving 24,000 children Countywide, including 350 foster children and over 1000 homeless families. It has one of the best track records in the country for Head Start, scoring well above the national average in classroom organization, instructional support, language modeling and behavior management. They consistently meet federal program goals in school readiness, health and social/emotional development.

The federal government is calling for an unprecedented “recompetition” process for LACOE and many of the other large Head Start agencies across the nation, including Detroit and New York City. While competition is not unto itself a problem, there is a risk of instability as well as significant funding and operational costs incurred that could result in disruption of services to children, should LACOE lose its service areas. Given their long history of strong performance, accountability and results for some of the most vulnerable families in the County, we believe that the Board should support their application.

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five signature letter to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families in support of the Los Angeles County Office of Education's proposal to administer the Head Start program in Los Angeles County.